

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

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26. (once amended) A tennis ball comprising a resilient hollow core and a ball-covering felt adhered to the hollow core, wherein the ball-covering felt is a needlefelt comprising a fiber batt and a plurality of fibers that extend transversely through the thickness of the batt in a range of angles, including angles that are non-perpendicular with respect to the surface of the batt.

202  
38. (once amended) A tennis ball as claimed in claim 28, wherein the needlefelt has a fiber density that varies across its thickness.

39. (once amended) A tennis ball as claimed in claim 38, wherein the fiber density of the needlefelt decreases from the base of the covering toward the external surface.

### REMARKS

#### **Amendments**

Claims 32-37, drawn to an unelected invention, have been cancelled without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a divisional application. Support for the amendment in claim 26 is found on page 3, lines 4-13. Claims 38 and 39 have been amended to recite a tennis ball. Claim 38 has also been amended to change dependency. It is submitted that no new matter is introduced by these amendments.